

To: Colaizzi, Jennifer C.[Colaizzi.Jennifer@epa.gov]
From: Davis, Tim
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 4:26:29 PM
Subject: Proposed changes to the home page

Hi Jennifer!

There are actually several minor wording changes (but very important) that we'd like to change in order to clarify the background for the public's benefit:

1. "cave entry" should be replaced by "mine portal" or "adit"
2. Water "stored" should be water "held" – it has been a big misconception in several media reports.
3. "to ensure the safety of citizens to water" – what does that even mean?
4. I'm still waiting for the updated version of the sentence starting with:
"While excavating loose material that had collapsed into the cave entry"

So...This is my proposal; it comes directly from Steve Merritt, who rewrote the home page, incorporating most of the changes above. Feel free to change ANYTHING you'd like—thanks!!

While excavating loose material that had collapsed into the portal, pressurized water began leaking above the mine tunnel and quickly eroded the face of the excavation, rapidly releasing about three million gallons of impounded ground water behind the collapsed material into Cement Creek, a tributary of the Animas River.

EPA is working closely with first responders and local and state officials to protect public health and the environment and areas impacted by the spill. The agency has activated its Emergency Operations Center to ensure coordination among its regions, laboratories and national program offices in Washington DC. EPA is closely coordinating with the officials in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Southern Ute tribe and Navajo Nation. EPA is taking the lead on efforts to secure the mine, treat the discharge, and manage flow from the mine.

EPA has also deployed federal On-Scene Coordinators and other technicians in Colorado, New Mexico and Navajo Nation to assist communities in these jurisdictions with alternative drinking water supplies, sampling of private wells, and assessing the environmental impacts. EPA is sharing information as quickly as possible with the community as experts work to analyze any effects the spill may have on drinking water and public health.